

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A restriction removing apparatus comprising:
 - a memory that stores content consisting of a plurality of related media content parts adapted to be combined to express said content as a plurality of levels of selectable grades and wherein at least some of said parts have an associated restriction that inhibits that associated part from being combined to express said content, and that stores a plurality of restriction removing data, each corresponding to one of said parts and that functions to permit that part to be combined, to thereby select which of said plurality of levels of grades is expressed, and wherein said memory further stores a transmission record of restriction removing data to said client;
 - a first receiver that receives a first request of a client for transmission of the content;
 - a first transmitter that transmits said content to said client upon said first request;
 - a second receiver that receives a second request of said client for transmission of at least one of the restriction removing data;
 - a second transmitter that transmits the restriction removing data to said client upon said second request; and
 - a charging device that effects the distribution of the restriction removing data and the charging in accordance with difference of the grades and that charges said client for the content, wherein said charging device charges client first amount of money

when none of the restriction removing data has already been transmitted to said client and second amount of money which is lower than said first amount when at least one of the restriction removing data has already been transmitted to said client.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A restriction removing system comprising:

storing means for storing content consisting of a plurality of related media content parts adapted to be combined to express said content as a plurality of levels of selectable grades and wherein at least some of said parts have an associated restriction that inhibits that associated media content part from being combined to express said content and that stores a plurality of restriction removing data, each corresponding to one of said parts and that functions to permit that part to be combined, to thereby select which of said plurality of levels of grades is expressed;

first receiving means for receiving a first request of a client for transmission of the content;

first transmitting means for transmitting said content to said client upon said first request;

second receiving means for receiving a second request of said client for transmission of at least one of the restriction removing data; and

second transmitting means for transmitting the restriction removing data to said client upon said second request;

wherein said second transmitting and receiving means effect the distribution of the restriction removing data and charging in accordance with difference of the grades.

5. (Currently Amended) A restriction removing method comprising the steps of:

(a) reading, from a memory, content consisting of a plurality of related media content parts adapted to be combined to express said content as a plurality of levels of selectable grades and wherein at least some of said media content parts have an associated restriction that inhibits that part from being combined to express said content, and that stores a plurality of restriction removing data, each corresponding to one of said parts and that functions to permit that part to be combined, to thereby select which of said plurality of levels of grades is expressed;

(b) receiving a first request of a client for transmission of the content;

(c) transmitting said content to said client upon said first request;

(d) receiving a second request of said client for transmission of at least one of the restriction removing data; and

(e) transmitting the restriction removing data to said client upon said second request to effect distribution of the restriction removing data; and

(f) charging in accordance with difference of the grades.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a program for removing restriction and content consisting of a plurality of related media content parts adapted to be combined to express said content as a plurality of levels of

selectable grades and wherein at least some of said parts have an associated restriction that inhibits that associated part from being combined to express said content, and storing a plurality of restriction removing data, each corresponding to one of said parts and that functions to permit that part to be combined, to thereby select which of said plurality of levels of grades is expressed, comprising the instructions of:

(a) receiving a first request of a client for transmission of the content;

(b) transmitting said content to said client upon said first request;

(c) receiving a second request of said client for transmission of at least one of the restriction removing data; ~~and~~

(d) transmitting the restriction removing data to said client upon said second request to effect distribution of the restriction removing data; and

(e) charging in accordance with difference of the grades.